



Data Collection Strategies

There are several strategies that can be employed to collect your safe routes to school travel data. The suggestions below are meant to simplify the data collection process at your school.

- A. **Volunteer-Assisted Tally:** Depending on the size of your school and the number of doors the student use to enter and exit your school, assign volunteers to count the number of students walking and biking in the morning and afternoon. Be sure to have volunteers in place before arrival and dismissal begins.
- B. **Front Office Check-In:** During homeroom make an announcement to have all walkers and bikers report to the front office. This will provide a quick opportunity to count the numbers of walkers and bikers. Repeat in the afternoon and consider dismissing your walkers and bikers first.
- C. **Self-Reporting:** Have student walkers and bikers check themselves in and out. This may only be appropriate for Middle Schools and will require some advanced communication with the students.
- D. **Integrate into a Lesson:** Utilize data collection as an opportunity to teach students about data and how to analyze it. Assign this project to a 4th, 5th or 6th grade class and have students travel to each classroom to collect data. They can use this data to show percentage of student who walk and bike and what change they see over the two days and how this relates to weather or previous year's results.
- E. **Student Leaders:** Assign data collection responsibilities to your student leaders. This can be the student council, a student safety patrol, or other student leadership group. This will allow them an opportunity to build their leadership, communication, and math skills.

A student tally form is available on our website and can be printed and used to collect student travel information. Visit http://saferoutes.vermont.gov/resources/tips_tools to download a copy.